



**RCA  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.:** 5  
**AGENDA DATE:** Thu 01/29/2004  
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**SUBJECT:** Approve designation of Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., as Health Authority and designation of Linda Williams Dooley, M.D. and Edward J. Sherwood, M.D., F.A.C.P, each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority for Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department effective February 1, 2004.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** N/A

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Health and Human  
**DEPARTMENT:** Services

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION:** David Lurie

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Lurie, Director, 972-5322; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** October 10, 2002, approved designation of Edward J. Sherwood, M.D. as Acting Health Authority and designation of Linda Williams Dooley, M.D., as Alternate Health Authority; January 30, 2003, approved execution of Sherwood Contract Amendment No. 1; April 10, 2003, approved designation of Adolfo M. Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., as Alternate Health Authority

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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**Background**

Edward J. Sherwood, M.D., F.A.C.P. has served as the appointed Interim Health Authority per the terms of a professional services agreement made October 10, 2002, and subsequently extended to January 31, 2004, by Amendment No. 1, approved by Council on January 30, 2003. Dr. Sherwood served during the search for a replacement appointee and provided additional professional medical services relating to public health, particularly addressing emergency preparedness issues associated with bioterrorism and surveillance programs for early detection of disease, whether natural, accidental or intentional.

David Lurie, Director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), has designated Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., as Health Authority effective February 1, 2004. Dr. Valadez joined HHSD as Medical Director for the Department on March 17, 2003, and was subsequently designated by Dr. Sherwood as an Alternate Health Authority and approved by Council on April 10, 2003.

Under state law (Health and Safety Code Section 121.029), the Health Authority may delegate any power or duty imposed on the health authority to a properly qualified physician to act while the health authority is absent or incapacitated. The physician designated by the health authority must:

- Meet license and residence requirements;



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- Be appointed as a designee in the same manner as the Health Authority; and
- File the Oath of Office, executed by a duly appointed Notary Public, with the Texas Department of Health

The delegation is effective during the term of the Health Authority making the delegation; the Health Authority is responsible for the acts of the physician to whom the powers have been delegated; and the entity that appoints the Health Authority must have procedures in place to prevent duplication of authority and provide notice to the Department when authority is transferred. HHSD has had a "Delegation of Back-Up Health Authority" in effect since July 1, 2000.

**Eligible Appointees**

Dr. Valadez received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He holds a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Since March, 2003, he has served as Medical Director for the Department and as an Alternate Health Authority designated by Acting Health Authority, Dr. Edward J. Sherwood since April, 2003.

With the approval of the HHSD Director, Dr. Valadez has requested that Dr. Edward J. Sherwood and Dr. Linda Williams Dooley be designated, each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority. Dr. Sherwood received his M.D., cum laude, from Boston University School of Medicine. His medical education included a residency in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Boston University. Dr. Sherwood holds Board Certifications in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases; Internal Medicine; and Medical Management. Dr. Sherwood meets all of the requirements under Section 121.029 of the Health and Safety Code.

Dr. Dooley received her M.D. from Texas Tech University School of Medicine and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. She joined HHSD on July 1, 1983, as Ambulatory Medicine Clinician and Attending at South Austin Clinic and Central Texas Medical Foundation. She is currently the Medical Director for the Department's TB Elimination Program, serves as Medical Director of the STD Clinic, and as a physician at the David Powell Clinic. Dr. Dooley meets all of the requirements under Section 121.029 of the Health and Safety Code.

*Attached is the Scope of Work for Health Authority and Alternate Health Authority, respectively.*

**Requested Action**

The Health Authority represents a key public health function in the community and enables the Department to address key public health issues and fulfill state statutory requirements. Council is requested to approve designation of Dr. Adolfo Valadez as Health Authority and Drs. Edward J. Sherwood and Linda Williams Dooley as Alternate Health Authority effective February 1, 2004.



### **Scope Of Work**

#### **Health Authority**

Under the direction of, and as assigned by, the Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department:

- Performs the duties of local Health Authority as described in State statute (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations, including those duties necessary to implement and enforce the law to protect the public health.
- Establishes, maintains, and enforces quarantine in Austin/Travis County.
- Provides medical leadership in responding to disease outbreaks.
- Advises local physicians concerning communicable disease and other public health concerns, including bioterrorism and other emergencies.
- Communicates to the media during a public health emergency as assigned.
- Conducts appeal hearings for Animal Services and Environmental Health licensing and regulation program.
- Serves on Department team for emergency operations.



### **Scope Of Work**

#### **Alternate Health Authority**

Under the direction of, and as assigned by, the Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, and by delegation of the Health Authority, only in the absence or event of incapacitation of the duly designated and approved Health Authority:

- Performs the duties of local Health Authority as described in State statute (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations, including those duties necessary to implement and enforce the law to protect the public health.
- Establishes, maintains, and enforces quarantine in Austin/Travis County.
- Provides medical leadership in responding to disease outbreaks.
- Advises local physicians concerning communicable disease and other public health concerns, including bioterrorism and other emergencies.
- Communicates to the media during a public health emergency as assigned.
- Conducts appeal hearings for Animal Services and Environmental Health licensing and regulation program.
- Serves on Department team for emergency operations.